

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the examiner rejected claims 1 - 20 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 - 22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,639. In view of the remarks and the terminal disclaimer being filed with the present response, applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been rendered moot and respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 - 20, and provide an indication of the allowability of all the pending claims.

Applicants are filing the attached terminal disclaimer merely to remove any issue as to whether the claims of the above-identified application and those of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,639 in any way conflict. However, neither applicants nor the assignees intend to make any representation as to whether the invention defined by any of the claims of the above-identified application would have been obvious in view of any other pending application or issued patent or whether any obviousness-type double patenting rejection would be appropriate if the enclosed terminal disclaimer were not filed. Accordingly, the terminal disclaimer is being filed only to expedite the allowance of the pending claims.

Accordingly, at least for the above-noted reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of claims 1 - 20.

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New claims 21 - 31 are also believed to include patentable subject matter. The new claims do not add any prohibited new matter and are supported, *inter alia*, at pages 12 and 19 of the specification.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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